

The present invention seeks to provide a bridge between traditional TDM PBX/KTS messaging and current IP-based messaging, allowing effective deployment of a hosted service in a transitional network that still requires TDM access via the PSTN. According to the present invention, the centralized messaging system of the prior art is decomposed into a back end cluster and a plurality of telephony access nodes (TANs). Each of the TANs will: terminate media and call processing from an associated local telephony switch; contain the service logic for the messaging application; and interact with the back end cluster. This provision permits a user to perform communications on a local telephony access node without making a call over the public switched network. However, a switch is also provided at each telephony access node to permit user access to the telephony access node.

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